

ARSENAL PLANT READY TO START

Production Will Begin Next Week

By ROBERT W. RICHARDS

Washington, Oct. 23. (Copley Press Leased Wire)—Actual production of fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate for peace will be begun next week at the Joliet, Ill., arsenal which turned out explosives for war, it was announced today by Maj. Gen. Everett S. Hughes, chief of army ordnance in charge of the program.

The fertilizer will be made available for shipment overseas for war ravaged crop lands, distribution in occupied countries to be under the supervision of the war department's civil affairs division.

JOLIET ARSENAL will be one of six plants to receive



basic raw material, anhydrous ammonia, for conversion into nitric acid, which will be neutralized with a balance of ammonia to effect a water solution of ammonium nitrate. The first shipment of anhydrous ammonia is due to arrive at the arsenal tomorrow from Indiana arsenal, Charleston, Ind.

Production of ammonium nitrate will be coordinated with the availability of anhydrous ammonia, expected to start at Joliet and other plants in November, reaching a capacity of 88,000 short tons per month by next March.

The water solution manufactured at Joliet and five allied ordnance layouts will be shipped in turn to six other army installations for graining, conditioning and bagging. Among

(Continued on Page Two)

The public's help in making a success will be appreciated."

Arsenal Plant Ready to Start

(Continued from Page One)

these is the Illinois ordnance plant at Carbondale, where operations will start in December.

OF THE THREE steps in the finished fertilizer, Joliet will engage in the second of "between" process, General Hughes said, adding that about 200 to 300 employees will be used at the arsenal, formerly known as the Kankakee Ordnance Plant, for the work. Officials at the arsenal said that the majority of the employees have already been hired.

The ammonium nitrate thus manufactured to replenish barren foreign farm lands will cost the army \$40,000,000. It will aid overseas farmers in raising home food needs, serving the two-fold purpose of reducing and eventually eliminating need for export of American foodstuffs to famine areas.

GEN. HUGHES emphasized that one target of the fertilizer program would be the prevention of hunger riots and their attendant dangers to American occupation forces.

The fertilizer production goal of 684,000 short tons will be attained by late summer of 1947, Hughes estimated, when the work will be suspended unless there is further need for it. Four months were required to ready plants for the processing in its initial stages.

Lt. Gen. McNarney in Germany and Gen. MacArthur in Japan, will determine the most urgent use of the fertilizer under allocations recommended by the combined food board.

Army's manufacture of ammonium nitrate to refurbish worn out soils will also spare additional amounts of commercially produced fertilizer for the American farmer, Gen. Hughes said.